

~~SECRET~~

25495

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 01 OF 02 LONDON 0657
EOB530 AN004172

DTG: 271754Z SEP 83 PSN: 020218
TOR: 270/1832Z CSN: HCE657

DISTRIBUTION: FORT-01 KRAM-01 SOMM-01 LINH-01 MAT-01
/005 A1

WHSR COMMENT: NODIS

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: JP VP SIT EOB
EOB:

OP IMMED
UTS5438
DE RUEHLD #0657 2701755
O 271754Z SEP 83 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

Free UK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8107

S E C R E T LONDON 20657

NODIS
E. O. 12356: OADR
TAGS: INF, UK, START
SUBJECT: THIRD PARTY SYSTEMS
REF: A. PARIS 35467, B. LONDON 20214

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).
2. AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEBATE ON THIRD COUNTRY SYSTEMS AND ARMS CONTROL, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:
3. IT IS NOT SELF-EVIDENT THAT U. S. INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY SUPPORTING FRENCH AND BRITISH DEMANDS THAT THEIR SYSTEMS BE EXEMPT FROM ANY PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS.
4. INDEED, THAT COULD LIMIT OUR FLEXIBILITY IN START, CAST DOUBT ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS, AND COST US AND EUROPEAN PUBLIC SUPPORT. INSO FAR AS OUR POSITIONS IN START AND INF HAVE ATTRACTED PUBLIC SUPPORT, IT IS LARGELY BECAUSE WE SUPPORT NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS. WE HAVE CONVINCED PUBLICS OF THAT CASE. BUT BRITISH WARHEADS (AND FRENCH AS WELL) ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE EIGHT-FOLD OVER THE NEXT DECADE. TO MAINTAIN THAT THOSE ARSENALS HAVE NO REPEAT NO IMPACT ON THE EAST WEST BALANCE -- AND NONE ON THE LOGIC OF OUR START POSITION -- SEEMS TO US INTELLECTUALLY SUSPECT AND THEREFORE PROBABLY UNSUSTAINABLE, EITHER PUBLICLY OR IN GENEVA.
5. MOREOVER -- FOR ALL MRS. THATCHER'S TALK OF A "MINIMUM DETERRENT" -- THE EIGHT-FOLD BRITISH INCREASE REFLECTS NEITHER MEASURABLE REQUIREMENTS NOR CONSIDERED STRATEGIC DOCTRINE. IN FACT, THE BRITISH HAVE NO DOCTRINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT DETERRENT (REFTEL B) AND HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT THEY DON'T NEED ALL TRIDENT'S CAPACITY. NOR DO THE PRECISE WARHEAD NUMBERS NOW PLANNED HAVE ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE FOR US. THERE IS ROOM HERE FOR MANEUVER.
6. THE TIME MAY COME WHEN MANEUVERING ROOM IS NEEDED. AN EVENTUAL BRITISH PLEDGE OF START-RELATED REDUCTIONS COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE USEFUL IN DEFUSING SOVIETS ARGUMENTS IN INF. REDEEMING SUCH A PLEDGE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE THE KEY TO AGREEMENT IN START.
7. IN SUM, WE SHOULD GIVE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH EVERY ASSURANCE THAT THEIR SYSTEMS WILL BE KEPT OUT OF INF TALKS.

SS

NODIS

NODIS

NODIS

NODIS

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F01-0501/25595

~~SECRET~~

BY RW NARA DATE 1/13/9

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 02 OF 02 LONDON 0657

DTG: 271754Z SEP 83 PSN: 020218

THAT RESPONDS TO A SOVIET PLOY WHICH STRIKES AT THE
HEART OF THE POST-WAR COMPROMISE ON NUCLEAR DETERRENCE. BUT
WE COUNSEL STOPPING SHORT OF CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES
THAT THEIR SYSTEMS WILL HAVE NO ROLE IN ARMS CONTROL; FOR
THAT IS UNLIKELY TO BE THE CASE.

8. DEPARTMENT PASS BONN, PARIS, ROME, THE HAGUE, USNATO
AND USUN FOR WINDMULLER/BURT. LOUIS
BT

N
O
D
I
S

N
O
D
I
S

N
O
D
I
S

N
O
D
I
S

~~SECRET~~